PA 5204: URBAN SPATIAL & SOCIAL DYNAMICS

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Humphrey School of Public Affairs

Spring 2018
Tue/Thu 8:15 – 9:30 AM
HHH 25

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This course is an introduction to the relevant theories, models, and approaches that explain the function and structure of urban areas. The course covers positive behavioral theories regarding the internal spatial arrangement and functioning of cities and characteristics of cities at a macro level and how they interact with each other (i.e., how they combine to produce systems of cities). Subtopics include factors influencing urban spatial structure over time, models of urban form, theories of land use and land rent, and issues related to the spatial expression of economic, social and political forces in urban areas. This course does not examine normative theories of urban form and development, and therefore leaves the treatment of specific urban planning movements such as Garden City, Modernism, New Urbanism, etc., to other courses, except insofar as these movements have had significant impact on urban form.

This course will require a rudimentary but working knowledge of GIS for the completion of one or more assignments. Specifically, students should be able to import census data into a GIS database, export data into Excel or SPSS, compute distances between points, and produce maps incorporating census tract attributes. The course will also require rudimentary statistical analysis in SPSS, and a fair amount of database manipulation and calculations in Excel.

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- Understand major economic, geographic, and sociological approaches to understanding the development of cities
- Understand and utilize standard tools for analyzing urban economic, spatial, and social structures
- Identify and assess the importance of major social, political, and economic forces that have shaped urban spatial development of cities
- Describe and explain the ways in which public policy and planning approaches have significantly affected urban development
- Explain how local public financing in the U.S. affects the spatial development of urban areas
A great deal about the topics covered in this course can be gleaned from four or five classic texts. If you have read or studied from these in the past, you will be well-prepared for this course. They are, in alphabetical order:


The readings for the course are a mix of classic articles on the course topics (for example, Alonso’s original depiction of the bid-rent theory, Colin Clark on density gradients, Charles Tiebout on public choice theory, etc.) and more recent theoretical developments and empirical investigations of urban dynamics.

The **midterm** is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 6**. The final day of class is **Thursday, May 3**.

There is a single textbook for the course and it is available at the bookstore at Coffman.


Other readings are available on the course Moodle site.

Grading: There is one exam and three take-home assignments. The exam will be based on both the readings and the material covered in class.

Semester Final Grades are based on the following:

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<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
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<td>Metro Report 1</td>
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<td>Take Home Exam</td>
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**Policy on late assignments**

You will have at least two weeks to complete each of the assignments in this class. It is expected that students will manage time and other responsibilities in such a way as to complete assignments on time. No extensions will be given. If a paper is handed in 1 to 2 days late it will be graded down one full grade (e.g., from A- to B-). If a paper is handed in 3 to 4 days late it will be graded down two full grades. Assignments will not be accepted later than 4 days after the due date, and students will receive no credit.
Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty. Students are responsible for maintaining scholastic honesty in their work at all times. Students engaged in scholastic dishonesty will be penalized, and offenses will be reported to the Office of Student Academic Integrity (OSAI, www.osai.umn.edu).

The University’s Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as “plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; or altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying of data, research procedures, or data analysis.”

Plagiarism is an important element of this policy. It is defined as the presentation of another's writing or ideas as your own. Serious, intentional plagiarism will result in a grade of "F" or "N" for the entire course. For more information on this policy and for a helpful discussion of preventing plagiarism, please consult University policies and procedures regarding academic integrity: http://writing.umn.edu/tww/plagiarism/.

Student Mental Health and Stress Management

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. University of Minnesota services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via http://www.mentalhealth.umn.edu/.
COURSE OUTLINE

After each topic a list of readings is given. The readings are from the texts or they are on the Moodle site for the course. In some cases there are “recommended” readings. These are sources to which you can go for further information about a topic. They are not required readings for the course.

1. **Tue. Jan 16** Introduction and course overview  
   *(sunrise: 7:47 / mean high temp: 23°)*
   
   Angel, chapter 1  

2. **Thu. Jan. 18** History of urban development / urban origins.  
   *(7:45 / 24°)*
   
   We begin with a brief look at the origins of urban life, the first cities, and the forces that first led humans to settle in cities. This requires a definition of “city” – a surprisingly contested step in its own right. There are competing theories about how and why urban settlements first emerged, but most emphasize the importance of agricultural surplus, a division of labor among the population, and technological advances. “Urban morphology” (the study of the form of cities) is a search for the factors that produce specific urban forms. We briefly highlight important factors in ancient cities, medieval cities, and the renaissance, and how and why the dominant urban form changed from each era to the next.


3. **Tue. Jan. 23** History of urban development / urban origins (cont.)  
   *(7:41 / 24°)*
   
   Continuation of the previous session.

   Angel, chapter 6.  

   *(7:40 / 25°)*
We resume our high-speed history of urban development by taking a look at urban form and dynamics through the age of industrialization. This is the era that has had the most proximate lasting effect on what our contemporary cities look like. We also examine the concepts of “urban growth” and “urbanization” and distinguish between the two (Africa is seeing tremendous urban growth while remaining behind more developed countries in urbanization). At some point in the past few years, urbanization worldwide, exceeded 50%: for the first time in this planet’s history, more humans live in cities than elsewhere.

Angel, chapter 7.

5. Tue. Jan 30 History of urban development / post-war modernism.
(7:34 / 25°)

Chapters 3 and 6.

(7:32 / 26°)

We shift attention to the internal form of cities by examining the concept of the urban density gradient. The basic set of relationships embodied in the density gradient form the foundation for many subsequent observations about urban form

Angel, chapters 3 and 11.

Recommended:

7. Tue. Feb 6 GIS session with Eric.
(7:26 / 27°)

Eric will answer GIS-related questions for assignment 1. For those of you not fully confident in the GIS element of the assignment, this will be very useful. For GIS mavens, go ahead and sleep in today.

(7:23 / 28°)
William Alonso in the early 1960s adapted a theory of value for agricultural land to urban areas. The theory is based on the assumption that land value is based on the distance a given parcel lies from the central marketplace of the urban area (the central business district – CBD). We look at how this single insight informs our understanding of land uses, densities, and how the basic relationship reacts to changes in transportation costs, population, and for different land uses.


We move away from economic models of city form to theories of the Chicago School of sociology, prominent in the early 20th Century. The “ecological” foundation of Park and Burgess leads them to conceive of the city as an organism with a metabolism. City growth is analogized to natural ecological changes. The spatial elements of Burgess’ ap the basic premise of outward and concentric growth, but adds complexity to proach suggest that cities evolve in a series of concentric rings. Hoyt accepts it and posits a sector theory. Harris and Ullman’s “multiple nuclei” model is perhaps the most realistic approximation of reality but lacks predictive power.

Park, Robert E., Ernest W. Burgess, and Roderick D. McKenzie (1925) The City. Chapters 2 and 3
Hoyt, Homer (1937) “City Growth and Mortgage Risk.” Chicago Insured Mortgage Portfolio


Central Place Theory, the “rank-size rule,” and the “primate city” hypothesis are all attempts to describe how cities relate to each other, and therefore how a system of cities develops within a region over time. Each of the explanations posits a hierarchy of urban areas and produces very specific predictions about how systems of cities will develop over time and space. The empirical evidence supporting each of the three is spotty at best.

Angel, chapter 8.
11. Tue. Feb.20  Measuring the urban form.
(7:05 / 31°)

In this session we look at ways of measuring urban form. Advances in GIS and Remote Sensing techniques allow for summary measures of urban form in ways that have not previously been possible. Measurements can be made at various scales, from attempts to measure the characteristics of urban form at the neighborhood level, useful to urban planners, to meso scale characterizations of urban form, more useful to urban theoreticians.

Angel, chapter 9.

(7:02 / 33°)

In this session we look at the impact of deindustrialization on the world’s cities, how economic restructuring has led to significant changes in urban form and spatial dynamics. Increasing globalization, facilitated by technological advances in communication, has, according to Sandercock, led to the emergence of the “mongrel city” – a mix of cultures and influences unprecedented in human history, and producing specific outcomes in urban areas around the globe. In this session we examine the potential for a “post-urban” era, in which technological advances make urban agglomerations irrelevant for most forms of commercial, social, and political transactions.


Recommended:

13. Tue. Feb.27  The neo-liberal city
(6:54 / 34°)

Recommended:

14. Thu. Mar. 1 Gentrification
(6:50 / 36°)

Though there are various definitions in use, it gentrification is a fundamental spatial redeployment of wealth and investment within urban areas. In this session we examine different conceptualizations of gentrification, explore the implications of gentrification for urban form and for social, economic, and political relations with cities.


15. Tue. Mar. 6 MIDTERM
(6:41 / 37°)

SPRING BREAK

16. Tue. Mar. 20 Peri-urban development
(7:16 / 43°)

The developing world is experiencing rapid rates of urbanization that consist of rural to urban migration as well as the conversion of rural into urbanized land. In this session we look at the forces creating this pattern of peri-urban development and we look at its form and content.


17. Thu. Mar. 22 Suburbanization
(7:12 / 44°)
The careful, scholarly examination of suburbanization has grown significantly over the past decades. In this session we refer to the work of Jackson (Crabgrass Frontier), Fishman (Bourgeois Utopias), and Hayden (Building Suburbia) to look at the history of suburban development (focusing on the U.S. and western Europe). We examine the different “waves” or “eras” of suburbanization to understand the various forms and functions of suburban development. Current suburban development trends (edge cities, exurbs, inner-ring decline) are also covered.

Angel, chapters 2, 4, and 14.  

Recommended:

18. Tue. Mar. 27 Sprawl
(7:02 / 47°)

The concept of urban sprawl is contested on a number of levels. There are, of course, the arguments about whether it is good or bad. Prior to that, however, people must agree on what sprawl is; and such agreement is not always easy to achieve. What are the essential characteristics of sprawl? How can we know it when we see it? Beyond agreement on the definition of sprawl, planners are frequently faced with task of measuring it. Finally, assuming we agree on a definition and measurement of sprawl, what do we know about the impacts of sprawl on urban living?

Angel, chapters 15 and 16.

Recommended:

**19. Thu. Mar 29**

*Local public finance and urban systems*

What does local public finance have to do with urban form? To answer that we must refer to Charles Tiebout’s “pure theory of local expenditures.” Tiebout’s theory is an attempt to determine the optimum level of public services, but the relationships he posits in his theory have implications for patterns of urban development and urban form through what Wassmer calls the “fiscalization of land use.” The reliance of local governments of specific sources of revenue, such as property taxes or retail sales taxes, can strongly influence decisions made about growth patterns and land uses.


**20. Tue. Apr 3**

*Local governmental fragmentation*

Various observers of American urban settings have argued that the extreme fragmentation of local government in urban areas is also highly important for determining urban spatial outcomes. Greater levels of fragmentation are argued to lead to greater spatial inequalities, worse patterns of sprawl, and central city decline. Public choice theorists, however, see fragmentation as a virtue, leading to greater efficiencies in public service provision.


**21. Thu. Apr 5**

*Racial and ethnic segregation*
American cities are among the most highly racially and ethnically segregated cities in the world. In this session we examine the nature and extent of racial segregation in the U.S. and compare it to conditions in western European cities. We look at the positive and the negative aspects of residential segregation, and we attempt to classify the spatial forms of such segregation.


22. Tue. Apr. 10  Segregation, part 2

What kinds of economic, political, and social outcomes can be attributed to the high rates of segregation in U.S. cities? How is segregation implicated in concerns related to environmental justice, concentrations of poverty, and diminished life-chances of racial minorities?


23. Thu. Apr 12  Urban inequality

Twenty years ago urban scholars ‘discovered’ the phenomenon of concentrated poverty. Though ghettos were not new to U.S. cities, the extreme concentration of disadvantage that had come to characterize poor neighborhoods in American cities was unprecedented. In this session we discuss the scope and nature of concentrated poverty in U.S. cities, and how the spatial manifestation of income inequality has affected urban areas.


Recommended:
Sharkey, Patrick (2013) *Stuck in place: Urban neighborhoods and the end of progress toward racial equality.*

**24. Tue. Apr 17** Cities and the environment, part 1

(6:24 / 59°)

In this session we introduce two important concepts in understanding urban form and development patterns. The first is the concept of sustainability as it relates to urban life. What do we mean by “urban sustainability” and how is it operationalized by planners and local officials? In what ways does the notion of sustainability intersect with issues of urban form and development? Second, we look at the issue of environmental justice as a way of evaluating the intersection between environmental and social outcomes in urban areas.


**25. Thu. Apr 19** Cities and the environment, part 2

(6:21 / 60°)

Concerns about cities and the environment are expressed using city as the dependent variable (e.g., how a given environmental factor or event affects suburban areas) and as independent variable (how the urban affects the environment). We explore this distinction and two categories of examples: the impact of natural disasters on cities and the generation of water and air pollution in urban areas.

Douglas, Ian (2013) *Cities: An environmental history*, chapters 2 and 4

**26. Tue. Apr 24** Cities and the environment, part 3

(6:13 / 62°)

In this session we focus on food and waste. Vast urban areas with millions of people create tremendous demand on food systems and require enormous infrastructure related to waste treatment and management.

Douglas, Ian (2013) *Cities: An environmental history*, chapters 3 and 6
Urbanization in the global south

Rates of urban growth in global south are far, far greater than those in North America and Western Europe. In 1950 there were 86 cities in the world with populations over one million. In 2005 there were 400, and it is expected that by 2015 there will be at least 515. Most of these new mega-cities are in less developed countries of Asia, Southeast Asia, South America, and Africa. In this session and the following ones we discuss urban growth in less developed countries and how such explosive growth has taxed the capabilities of national governments to provide adequate infrastructure.


Urbanization in the global south, part 2

We focus on the emergence of mega-slums in the rapidly growing cities of the south, including the *favelas* of Brazil, the *gacekondu* of Turkey, the *kijiji* of Kenya, and the *kampungs* of Kuala Lumpur (the “shadow cities” as they are called by Robert Neuwiirth). According to the UN, slums contain 78% of urban dwellers in least developed countries. Davis provides a list of megaslums. Number 30 on the list is Masina, located in the city of Kinshasa. It is home to half a million people, *more than the entire population of Minneapolis.* There are 29 more slums in the world even larger.

UN Habitat (2003) *Challenge of the Slums*, chapters 1-3

Urbanization in the global south, case study: Dar es Salaam

We examine the development of a single city in East Africa to illustrate the issues of urbanization in the global south. Dar es Salaam is the largest city in Tanzania, located on the Indian Ocean. It has a relatively short history as a settlement, being founded in the late 19th Century. We look at the urban form of the city, the influence of German and British colonial rule, and contemporary issues of land use and informality.


**Supplemental readings**

There are a number of book length treatments of urban dynamics that have influenced this syllabus and the course more generally. Again in alphabetical order:


